



**U.S. Department of Justice
Office of the United States Trustee
Western District of Washington**

600 Park Place Building (206) 553-2000
1200 Sixth Avenue (206) 553-2566 (fax)
Seattle, WA 98101-3100

February 4, 2002

TO: Western Washington Bankruptcy Practitioners

RE: Debtor Identification at § 341(a) Meetings

**EFFECTIVE IN ALL CASES FILED ON AND AFTER MARCH 1, 2002,
ALL INDIVIDUAL DEBTORS, INCLUDING EACH DEBTOR IN A JOINT CASE,
MUST BRING TO THEIR § 341 MEETING PROOF OF THEIR IDENTITY AND
CORRECT SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER.**

Proof of Identity – Photo ID. Acceptable proof of identity ID will be a 1) state driver's license, 2) government ID, 3) state ID, 4) student ID, 5) United States passport, 6) military ID, or 7) resident alien card.

Proof of Social Security Number. Acceptable proof of SSN will be a 1) social security card, 2) medical insurance card, 3) pay stub, 4) W-2 form, 5) IRS form 1099, or 6) Social Security Administration report.

Only original photo IDs and other documents will be accepted.

If the debtor does not have the required proof, the trustee will continue the § 341(a) meeting. The debtor must appear again to show identification.

If the debtor's social security documentation does not match the bankruptcy petition, you must file an amended petition on behalf of your client and notify creditors and credit reporting agencies of the corrected social security number.

An extensive nationwide pilot ID program has shown that about 1% of all bankruptcy debtors list an incorrect social security number. Even unintentional mistakes have the potential to cause serious credit problems for consumers who are wrongly identified as bankruptcy debtors.

You will find the required forms and other helpful information on our website at http://www.usdoj.gov/ust/r18/s_home.htm.

We appreciate your cooperation.